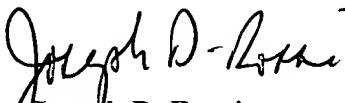


Conclusion

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Office Action of record. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an indication of allowability and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph D. Rossi
Registration No. 47,038

Date: June 16, 2003

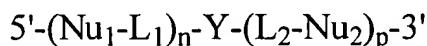
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend the application as follows:

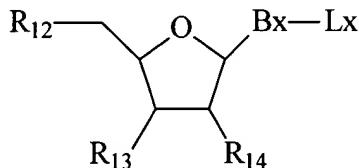
Please amend the claims as follows:

24. (Twice Amended) An oligomeric compound of the formula:



wherein:

each Nu_1 and Nu_2 , independently, has the formula:



wherein

Bx is a heterocyclic base moiety;

Lx is hydrogen, a protecting group or a substituent group;

one of R_{12} , R_{13} and R_{14} is hydroxyl, a protected hydroxyl, a covalent attachment to a solid support, a nucleoside, an oligonucleoside, a nucleotide, an oligonucleotide, a conjugate group or an optionally protected substituent group;

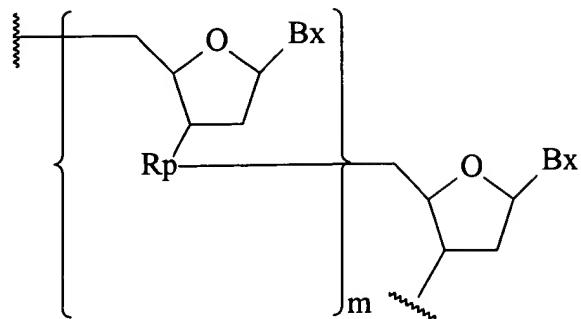
another of R_{12} , R_{13} and R_{14} is hydrogen, hydroxyl, a protected hydroxyl or an optionally protected substituent group;

the remaining of R_{12} , R_{13} and R_{14} , of Nu_1 , is L_1 ;

the remaining of R_{12} , R_{13} and R_{14} , of Nu_2 , is L_2 ;

each L_1 and each L_2 is, independently, a phosphodiester internucleoside linkage or a modified internucleoside linkage;

Y has the formula:



wherein:

each Rp is a chiral Rp phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage; and

each n, m and p [is], independently, is at least 1 [from 1 to 100]; where the sum of n, m and p is from [3 to about 200] 4 to about 49;

with the proviso that at least one of R₁₂, R₁₃, R₁₄ and L_x is a substituent group or at least one of L₁ and L₂ is a modified internucleoside linkage,

wherein the oligomeric compound comprises from 5 to about 50 nucleosides.

Please cancel claims 37 and 40-43, without prejudice.